

February 24, 1976

have been elected. Some of us have been returned, some of us, like Senator Syas, time and time again. That's fine with me. The point I want to make is this that no one here serves, I don't believe there's an appointed member of this body at this time. We are here because the people in our districts, who know us best, sent us here. They sent us here to do that which we feel to be responsible government. This is representative government at its best. I think one of the worst things we can do in this body is to overreact. I think that perhaps we have found some problems with the annual session, but they are still in the process of being formulated. All of us have been besieged by a number of bills to be introduced, that's an individual decision to make. Some of us decide to introduce bills, some of us decide to work in another way. Each member has his own way in which he operates most effectively and that's his own decision. So long as his constituents agree that's the way it should be.

I would like to point out at this time that the members of this body are responsive to the people who elected each and everyone of us. If not, there's a system which is called an election, which is going to be held again real soon, which returns those individuals.

I'd like to ask you what you have if you have the Legislature not in session? I was frankly touched by the Governor's concern because of our lack of adequate compensation. Therefore, we should not just come down here every year. We should just stay home and tend to our business and earn some more money at home. It's very touching. The facts are these, all of us know that agencies of government operate much more freely without the scrutiny of the Legislature. It isn't just the public whose concerned about the Legislature being in session, it's the agencies of government--the non-elected people. Those of us ... Senator Syas has been here a long while, but there are many many people in state government who have been here longer than Senator Syas. They breathe much more easily when the Legislature is out of session. They do not like the scrutiny, they do not appreciate the scrutiny of the legislative process going over their budgets. I think that we should remember the elected people that are here today and all of us can take some criticism, that's what we're hired for. We are the ones who respond to the people who elected us, the appointed people, the hired people who, in many cases and in some government run the government, would like to have the Legislature never meet. They'd like to have the Legislature never come down here to look over what they're doing.

I would suggest, in response to the criticism in regard to the number of bills, those bills that are introduced many times are at the request of agencies of government. I have a number of them in the Committee on Agriculture. We've all gone through them. Those agencies besiege me. There was a gentleman in my office just a few minutes ago telling me how important it is to get some of those bills enacted into law. I don't know if they checked with their boss or not in the Northeast corner, but they were up there pleading with me to get those bills across the board. I know Senator